YOU can visit our headquarters! Turn to p.81

# W.i.t.c.h.

45

P 85

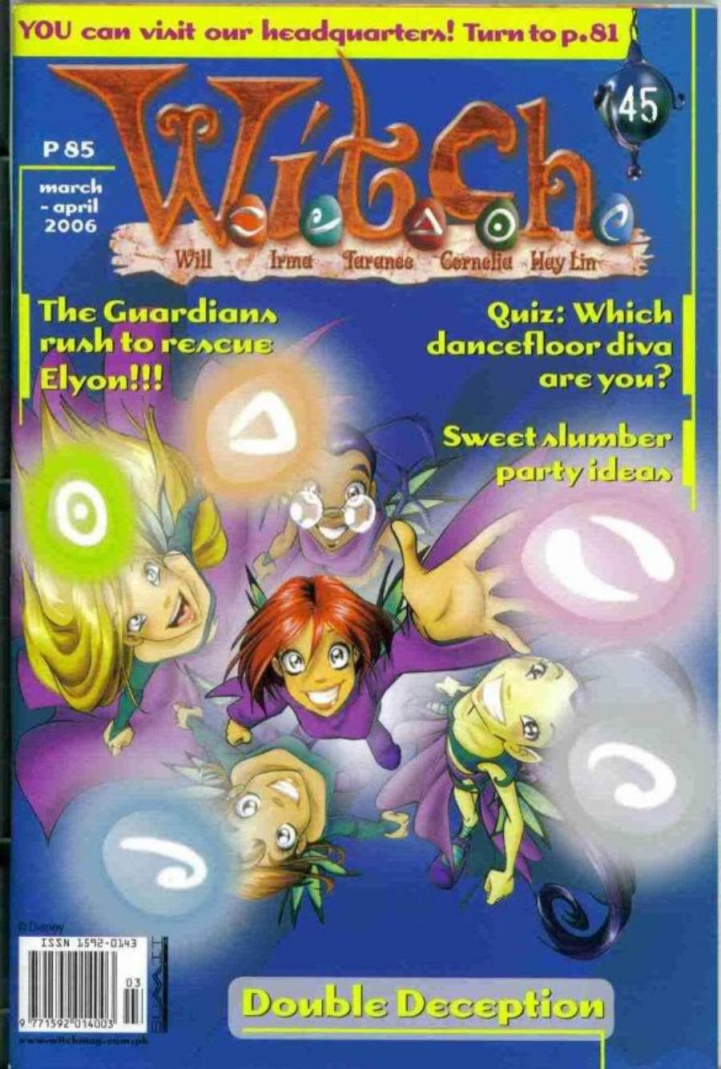
march - april 2006

Will Irma Taranee Cornelia Hay Lin

The Guardians rush to rescue Elyon!!!

Quiz: Which dancefloor diva are you?

Sweet slumber party ideas



Double Deception

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# Double Deception

"An impostor has taken over as Oracle!"

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AT KANDRAKAR, THE CENTER OF INFINITY.
THE NEW ORACLE'S INITIATION CEREMONY IS DRAWING NEAR. EVERYTHING MUST BE READY FOR THE IMPORTANT EVENT! BUT FIRST HE MUST UNDERGO A MAGICAL FAST INSIDE THE HALL OF SILENCE.
YOU MEAN IT'S NOT READY YET?
IT'S NOT MY FAULT!
I JUST HOPE VAAL DELIVERS THE GOWN IN TIME. OTHERWISE...
OTHERWISE?
WELL... SPEAKING OF CLOTHING, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE IN HIS SHOES!

THIS IS PRECISELY WHAT I HAD IN MIND!
BUT SIRE... KANDRAKAR HAS NEVER SEEN ANYTHING SO LAVISH BEFORE!
NEVER SEEN IT BEFORE, YOU SAY? THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANT!
A NEW ERA IS DAWNING IN KANDRAKAR...
...MANY THINGS ARE GOING TO CHANGE!
I EXPECT A GREAT DEAL FROM YOU. DON'T DISAPPOINT ME!
OH, YES... YOU HAVE NO IDEA HOW MUCH YOUR ORACLE IS GOING TO CHANGE KANDRAKAR...
IT WILL BE DONE, SIRE!

THE CROWN OF LIGHT WILL MAKE ME INVINCIBLE!
NOTHING WILL BE ABLE TO STOP ME... I'LL HAVE ABSOLUTE POWER!
FRUMP
!
WHO DARES TO SNEAK BEHIND MY BACK?
IT'S VAAL, YOUR LUMINOUSNESS! I'VE BROUGHT THE CEREMONIAL INITIATION GOWN FOR YOU TO TRY ON!

VAAL, MY FAITHFUL SERVANT. I WAS... REFLECTING!
I'M SORRY ! INTERRUPTED YOU. I'LL ASK THAT YOU NOT BE DISTURBED BY ANYONE.
GOOD! PUT THE GOWN OVER THERE AND LEAVE ME!
OF COURSE... AS YOU WISH!
OH, NOOO!

THE HEATHERFIELD OBSERVATORY. GETTING DISTRACTED HAS ITS CONSEQUENCES HERE, TOO.
ZIFF
OOH... I'M SO SORRY!
JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE, I'LL PUT THIS AWAY.
AN 18TH CENTURY **ASTROLABE** SHOULDN'T BE HANDLED CARELESSLY!
I'M SORRY... I... I... I HAVE TO GO.
IT WAS JUST A LITTLE ACCIDENT. **YOU SHOULDN'T LEAVE BECAUSE OF THAT!**
NO... YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND. **I REALLY HAVE TO GO!**

"ERIC, IS YOUR FRIEND ALWAYS SO... EMOTIONAL?"
THE CITY IS BATHED IN WARM SUNLIGHT. LIFE PASSES BY CALMLY FOR THOSE WHO ARE OBLIVIOUS TO THE DANGERS THREATENING THE PEACE OF THE UNIVERSE!
NOW WE CAN BEGIN! FIRST OF ALL...
LET'S RECAP THE SITUATION!
IS THERE STILL ROOM FOR ME?
TAKE A SEAT. WE CAN ALL SIT TOGETHER.
SHHH! I CAN'T HEAR ANYTHING!
KANDRAKAR IS IN DANGER!
AN IMPOSTOR HAS TAKEN OVER AS ORACLE!

SO LET'S GET THIS STRAIGHT. THE ORACLE IS AN IMPOSTER, PHOBOS HAS COME BACK, AND WE'RE ALL IN DANGER.
AM I FORGETTING ANYTHING?
YOU'RE ALWAYS A BIG HELP, IRMA!
AT LEAST I ACT MY AGE AND I DON'T PUT ON AIRS!
NO, BUT YOU SURE ARE FULL OF HOT AIR SOMETIMES!
REALLY, HEY HAY? BACKSTABBING ME NOW, ARE YOU?
WHAT AN UPLIFTING LITTLE SCENE! VEEEERY FITTING FOR THE GUARDIANS OF KANDRAKAR!
OH, DON'T YOU START NOW, TOO!

YOU ALWAYS HAVE TO ACT LIKE THE TEACHER, DON'T YOU?
MAY I REMIND YOU THAT WE HAVE A ROLE THAT CALLS FOR A BIT OF SERIOUSNESS?
ENOUGH!
FEAR HAS TOUCHED YOUR SOULS, BUT I KNOW HOW BRAVE YOU'RE ALL CAPABLE OF BEING.
BUT WE...
LET ME CONTINUE. WILL. IT'LL BE EASIER.
WE COULD ALWAYS DECIDE NOT TO FIGHT, IF WE WISH.
WHAT???
AFTER ALL, NO ONE IS FORCING US TO, AND WE'RE SAFE HERE.

EACH ONE OF US HAS A LIFE TO THINK ABOUT. MINE IN BASILIADE, YOURS HERE IN HEATHERFIELD.
WHAT ARE YOU...
WAIT!
AND... ELYON?
ELYON HAS ALREADY BEEN HELPED TOO MANY TIMES. PERHAPS THE TIME HAS COME FOR HER TO PROVE ON HER OWN THAT SHE DESERVES HER DESTINY.
AS FOR PHOBOS... PERHAPS HE'S THE KIND OF ORACLE THAT KANDRAKAR REALLY NEEDS.
WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU? YOU JUST GOT HERE ON EARTH AND YOU'RE ALREADY ACTING LIKE THE WORST OF HUMANS!
HOW DARE YOU!?!
STEP ASIDE, CORNY! I'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM!

LISTEN UP, BECAUSE I'M ONLY GOING TO SAY THIS ONCE!
WE'RE GOING TO FREE ELYON AND CHASE PHOBOS BACK UNDER THE ROCK HE CRAWLED OUT FROM!
WITH OR WITHOUT YOUR HELP! GOT IT?
GOOD. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I WANTED TO HEAR YOU SAY!
WHEW!
GOOD GOING, IRMA...
YOU HAVE TO TAKE US TO THE TOWER OF MISTS, SIR.

THE CROWN OF LIGHT MUST BE RETURNED TO ELYON FOR US TO HAVE A CHANCE TO SUCCEED.
YES, I KNOW THE SECRET ENTRANCES INTO THE TOWER. BUT...
...THEY'RE SEALED OFF TO EVERYONE, EXCEPT FOR THE ORACLE AND THE KEEPER OF THE TOWER.
BUT YOU AREN'T THE ORACLE ANYMORE AND WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO GET IN!
TARANEE'S RIGHT. IF YOU CAN'T EVEN OPEN UP THOSE DOORS...
ALONE, I CAN'T. BUT WITH ALL OF YOU...
THE MAGIC OF KANDRAKAR IS OF THE SAME NATURE AS YOUR POWERS...
...NOTHING CAN RESIST YOU FOR LONG.
THE POWER OF THE FIVE.
I TOLD YOU WE WERE IRRESISTIBLE!
ONCE INSIDE, EVERYONE WILL BE AGAINST US. WE'LL HAVE TO UNMASK PHOBOS AND I DON'T THINK HE'LL LET US DO THAT WITHOUT A FIGHT!
DON'T BE AFRAID, WILL. THE PATH TO VICTORY IS OFTEN INDICATED BY THE ENEMY!

WE'RE READY! LET'S GO NOW!
THE PATH TO VICTORY IS OFTEN INDICATED BY WHO? DID YOU GET WHAT HE MEANT BY THAT?
?
THE POWER OF TIME IS AT YOUR DISPOSAL!
IT'S NOT YET THE MOMENT. JUST LIKE YOU, I, TOO, HAVE A FRIEND TO SAVE IN KANDRAKAR.
"I HAVE A DEBT OF GRATITUDE TO THE REAL ENDARNO, AND I INTEND TO REPAY IT."
BUT WE HAVE TO WAIT UNTIL THE ENEMY IS LOOKING THE OTHER WAY.
"FOR NOW, THE MEETING IS ADJOURNED..."
AS THOSE WHO READ W.I.T.C.H. #38 UNDERSTAND.

KANDRAKAR.
WICKEDNESS AND RUTHLESS AMBITION ARE POISONING THIS PLACE OF PEACE...
THE JUST ARE IN CHAINS...
VIRTUE HAS BEEN BETRAYED...
AND WISDOM MUST HIDE ITSELF AWAY IN ORDER TO SURVIVE.

SHORTLY AFTERWARDS, IN HEATHERFIELD...
SOMETIMES I ENVY THEM.
WHO?
THEM.
THEM WHO?
YOU KNOW, THEM! ALL OF THEM! EVERYBODY WHO DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT KANDRAKAR... OR ABOUT ALL ITS COMPLICATIONS!
YEAH.
THAT'S IT! LET'S TAKE A TIME OUT! I SAY WE TREAT OURSELVES TO A HEALTHY, INVIGORATING ACTIVITY.
A SHOPPING SPREE?

SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, CORNY, BUT I WAS THINKING OF A GAME OF VOLLEYBALL!
YEAH! THAT'S A GREAT IDEA! WHO'LL GO WITH ME TO GET A BALL?
I WILL, BUT ONLY IF YOU GUYS GO ALONG WITH MY IDEA NEXT TIME!
WHAT ABOUT YOU TWO?
I HAVE TO PASS. IF I DON'T DO THE GROCERY SHOPPING, THEY'LL BE SERVING ME UP AS DINNER TONIGHT!
WELL... I GUESS I'LL GO WITH YOU...
COME ON! WE'LL GET SOME ICE CREAM, TOO. MAYBE THAT'LL TAKE THAT FROWN OFF YOUR FACE!
SEE YOU LATER!
BYE!

LOW FAT YOGURT, NO FRUIT, ZERO SUGAR, AND LOW IN CHOLESTEROL TO BOOT. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
HMMM... SOUNDS GOOD...
OR MAYBE WE SHOULD GET SOME KIND OF SUPER-DUPER ENERGY BOOSTER, BECAUSE YOU REALLY SEEM TO BE DRAGGING.
MMM HMM. WHATEVER...
OKAY, NOW DON'T BE SO PUSHY... HAY HEY, WOULD YOU COME BACK TO EARTH FOR A SEC?
HUH? OH! SORRY, IRMA... YOU'RE RIGHT... IT'S JUST THAT...
WHAT'S BOTHERING YOU, HAY LIN?
OTHER THAN THE SAME OLD EMERGENCY SITUATION IN A PARALLEL DIMENSION, I MEAN.

I MET ERIC'S PARENTS.
WOW!
AND SO?
WELL, FIRST I SPILLED BOILING HOT SOUP ALL OVER THEM, AND THEN I ALMOST DESTROYED ONE OF THE ANTIQUES IN THEIR COLLECTION!
HOLY MOLY! THEY MUST'VE MADE YOU REALLY ANGRY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? IT WAS AN ACCIDENT!
TWO ACCIDENTS, TO BE PRECISE!
YEAH, TWO. THAT'S THE PROBLEM. THEY MUST THINK I'M A TOTAL COSMIC AIRHEAD!
TONK!
PFFF... AND THEN?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, AND THEN? I CAN'T LOOK ERIC IN THE FACE ANYMORE!

IRMA, I'VE GOT THE IMPRESSION YOU AREN'T LISTENING TO ME.
AND I'M NOT! I'M TRYING TO READ YOUR MIND. BUT YOU COULD SAVE ME THE TROUBLE...
?
...IF YOU'D TELL ME EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED!
"WHEN I SPILLED THE SOUP ON THEM, I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW THEY WERE ERIC'S PARENTS."
"I JUST FOUND OUT WHEN ERIC'S MOM INVITED ME OVER TO EAT AT THEIR PLACE THE NEXT DAY."

WHAT'S AN ASTROLABE?
THAT'S ASTROLABE!
AS ERIC WAS SO PROMPT TO SUGGEST, AN ASTROLABE IS AN ANCIENT INSTRUMENT USED FOR MEASURING THE ALTITUDE OF STARS ON THE HORIZON.
OH!
IF I'M NOT MISTAKEN, WE HAVE A REALLY NICE ONE, DON'T WE, DAD?
IF YOU LIKE, I CAN SHOW IT TO YOU LATER ON!
YAP! COSMIC!
THAT WOULD BE A YES, I PRESUME.

I MEANT, THAT WOULD BE VERY NICE, PROFESSOR LYNDON!
GOOD. CURIOSITY IS A PRECIOUS GIFT, MY DEAR. PARTICULARLY WHEN IT'S PROPERLY DIRECTED...
SPEAKING OF CURIOSITY... DID YOU READ THE REPORT ON THE NEW OBSERVATORY IN ANK-SHAI-LOK?
TRULY EXCEPTIONAL WORK, LOUISE. WILL YOU INCLUDE IT IN THE PRESENTATION YOU'LL BE MAKING AT THE CONVENTION?
WE'LL SEE. IN ANY CASE, THE RESULTS ARE REALLY ENCOURAGING.
THE FACT THAT THE CONVENTION WILL BE HELD HERE AT THE HEATHERFIELD OBSERVATORY MAKES IT A LOT EASIER.
YOU GUYS STUDY THE STARS, RIGHT?

THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT CHARLES AND I DO, HAY LIN.
THAT'S WHY WE TRAVEL SO OFTEN. WE SPENT THE LAST FEW YEARS ON AN ISLAND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE OCEAN.
THERE'S A POWERFUL SPACE TELESCOPE IN ANK-SHAI-LOK. UNFORTUNATELY, THERE ISN'T MUCH OF ANYTHING ELSE. THAT'S WHY ERIC COULDN'T COME ALONG WITH US.
ALTHOUGH YOU KNOW I'D HAVE BEEN HAPPY TO GO!
WE HAVE NO TROUBLE BELIEVING THAT, ERIC. BUT IT WAS VERY IMPORTANT TO US THAT YOU DIDN'T MISS THOSE YEARS OF SCHOOL!
I'M HAPPY THAT HE STAYED HERE...
IN ANY CASE, IT LOOKS LIKE ERIC HAS MADE SOME INTERESTING DISCOVERIES HIMSELF!
BEFORE THE MEN OF THE LYNDON FAMILY EMBARRASS OUR YOUNG GUEST...
GOOD IDEA, MOM! HAY LIN HAS NEVER SEEN ITS BEST ROOMS!
RIGHT?
RIGHT!
...WHAT DO YOU SAY WE GIVE YOU A SPECIAL TOUR OF THE OBSERVATORY?

OF COURSE! THINKING ABOUT IT, YOU COULDN'T ADMIT YOU'D ALREADY SEEN MORE THAN ENOUGH. I STILL FEEL BAD ABOUT THAT!*
*AS THOSE WHO READ W.I.T.C.H. #21 WILL REMEMBER.
I DIDN'T SAY ANYTHING, AND THEN...
"THEY TOLD ME A BUNCH OF INTERESTING THINGS..."
"...AND I LISTENED TO EVERY WORD, REALLY! UNTIL....."

UNTIL THEY SHOWED ME...
THIS IS AN ASTROLABE.
IT'S BEAUTIFUL!
IF YOU TURN IT OVER, YOU CAN SEE...
HAY LIN!
I'M WAITING FOR YOU AT ORUBE'S! COME QUICK!
!!!

SO YOU WERE STARTLED BY WILL'S TELEPATHIC MESSAGE AND THE THINGAMAJIG SLIPPED OUT OF YOUR HANDS.
SHIFT SHIFT
YEAH, AND WILL SOUNDED SO WORRIED...
BUT IT DIDN'T BREAK.
NO, FORTUNATELY, ERIC'S DAD CAUGHT IT JUST IN TIME!
WHEW! YOU CERTAINLY GOT OUT OF THAT ONE!
ZIP
FIRST THE SOUP, THEN THE ASTROTHINGY, THEN YOUR ESCAPE. GOOD GOING!
YOU'RE NOT HELPING ME BY SAYING THINGS LIKE THAT!
THE NEXT TIME I DECIDE TO TELL YOU SOMETHING, REMIND ME TO KEEP MY BIG MOUTH SHUT!
WAIT, HAY HEY!
I'M JUST THINKING UP A STRATEGY, OKAY!?!

I'VE GOT AN IDEA THAT'LL MAKE YOU SCORE POINTS WITH ERIC'S PARENTS.
REALLY???
GIVE THEM A PEACE OFFERING! SHOW UP AT THE LYNDON HOME WITH A CAKE!
AND I THOUGHT YOU REALLY HAD AN IDEA...
BUT IT'LL WORK! IT'S PSYCHOLOGICAL CHARM!
HUH?
BEAR WITH ME! FIRST YOU COVER THEM WITH SOUP...
BUT I...
DON'T INTERRUPT ME! THEN YOU DESTROY THEIR PRECIOUS THINGAMABOB...
ASTRO-LABE.
OKAY, WHATEVER YOU CALL IT.
AND ON TOP OF THAT, YOU RUN OFF WITHOUT GIVING THEM AN EXPLANATION?
IF I WERE THEM, I WOULDN'T SPEAK TO YOU ANYMORE.
THANKS, IRMA! YOU'RE A TRUE FRIEND!

BUT THEN I WONDER: ARE YOU REALLY SURE YOU WANT TO SEE ERIC AGAIN? I MEAN, THERE ARE LOTS OF FISH IN THE SEA...
GRRRR...

OKAY, SO YOU'RE SURE! UNLESS YOU WANT TO TELL THEM YOU'RE A GUARDIAN OF KANDRAKAR WHO HEARS VOICES AND HAS MAGICAL POWERS...

...THEN YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO IMPRESS THEM SOME OTHER WAY! IT'LL BE A PIECE OF CAKE!

UGH! YOU AND YOUR WISECRACKS!
SO THIS IS THE THANKS I GET? YOU'RE TOUCHY AND UNGRATEFUL, YOU KNOW THAT?
FOOLISH, NAIVE LITTLE GIRLS...

GO ON, WORRY ABOUT YOUR RIDICULOUS LITTLE PROBLEMS WHILE YOU STILL CAN!
"THE HOUR IS NEAR!"

IT'S TIME TO GO, SIRE...
FINE, IF IT'S TRULY NECESSARY...
AFTER CROSSING OVER THE THRESHOLD TO THE HALL OF SILENCE, NO NOISE MAY TRAVEL THROUGH THE AIR. IF YOU WERE TO SPEAK, NO SOUND WOULD COME FROM YOUR LIPS.
IF YOU DECIDE TO LEAVE, YOU MAY DO SO. YET BY INTERRUPTING YOUR MAGICAL FAST, YOUR POWERS WILL BE LEFT INCOMPLETE...
SO BE IT! YET I ORDER THAT ALL OF KANDRAKAR UNDERGO A PERIOD OF SILENCE AS WELL.
EVERYONE IS TO REMAIN CONFINED IN THEIR QUARTERS UNTIL I HAVE LEFT THIS HALL!
BUT SIRE... THERE ARE PREPARATIONS TO BE COMPLETED!
THIS IS WHAT I'VE DECIDED. INFORM THE OTHERS OF MY ORDER.

STUPID RITUALS! I HAVE TOO MANY THINGS TO COMPLETE BEFORE THE CEREMONY TO STAY LOCKED UP IN HERE!
AAAAH!
THIS SILENCE WILL DRIVE ME MAD!
I'M ONLY WASTING TIME! THERE'S WORK TO BE ATTENDED TO IN THE TOWER OF MISTS!

MEANWHILE...
UM...
DLIIN DLONN
YES?
OH! HELLO, HAY LIN!
HELLO, MRS. LYNDON! I WANTED TO APOLOGIZE FOR HOW I BEHAVED. I DIDN'T...
I APPRECIATE THE GESTURE, BUT I CAN ASSURE YOU IT ISN'T NECESSARY.
WHY DON'T YOU COME IN FOR A MOMENT, HAY LIN? WE WERE JUST ABOUT TO HAVE SOME TEA.
WHO IS IT, MOM?

COSMIC! I MEAN... THANKS! I'D LOVE TO!
THIS IS FOR YOU.
THANK YOU! HOW KIND OF YOU!
HAY LIN... HAY LIN!
UM... MRS. LYNDON, I'M SORRY, BUT I HAVE TO GO!
BUT... HAY LIN!
PLEASE TELL ERIC I SAID HI!
THAT WONDERFUL GIRL CERTAINLY MAKES AN IMPRESSION! I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HER NEXT TIME... THAT IS, IF SHE GIVES ME A CHANCE!
End of Part One.

KANDRAKAR.
WHEN SILENCE ISN'T PEACE, BUT ANTICIPATION.
WHEN TRANQUILITY IS UNREAL AND SUSPENDED, BECAUSE EVERYTHING HAS STOPPED IN EXPECTATION OF GREATER EVENTS.
EVERY WHISPER IS DEAFENING.
SCREEEK SCREEK
EVERY RHYTHM UNNERVING.
AND A SINGLE QUESTION HAS YET TO BE ANSWERED...
...WILL FREEDOM COME AT LAST?
WOOOSH

FWOOSH
KWIIW
WOW! THIS PLACE IS GREAT! I'VE NEVER BEEN HERE BEFORE!
LET'S SAVE THE GUIDED TOUR FOR NEXT TIME! RIGHT NOW WE HAVE TO FOCUS ON OUR MISSION, OKAY?
WHICH WAY, SIR?
THERE IS A DOOR SOMEWHERE DOWN THERE.
TH-THAT ONE?
IT WAS MADE BY THE ARCHITRAVE MASTERS DURING THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE TOWER. AS TIME PASSED, THE TOWER SEALED ITS HINGES AND FRAME TIGHT.
THE TOWER SEALED OFF THE DOOR?
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SURPRISED BY THE POWERS OF KANDRAKAR...

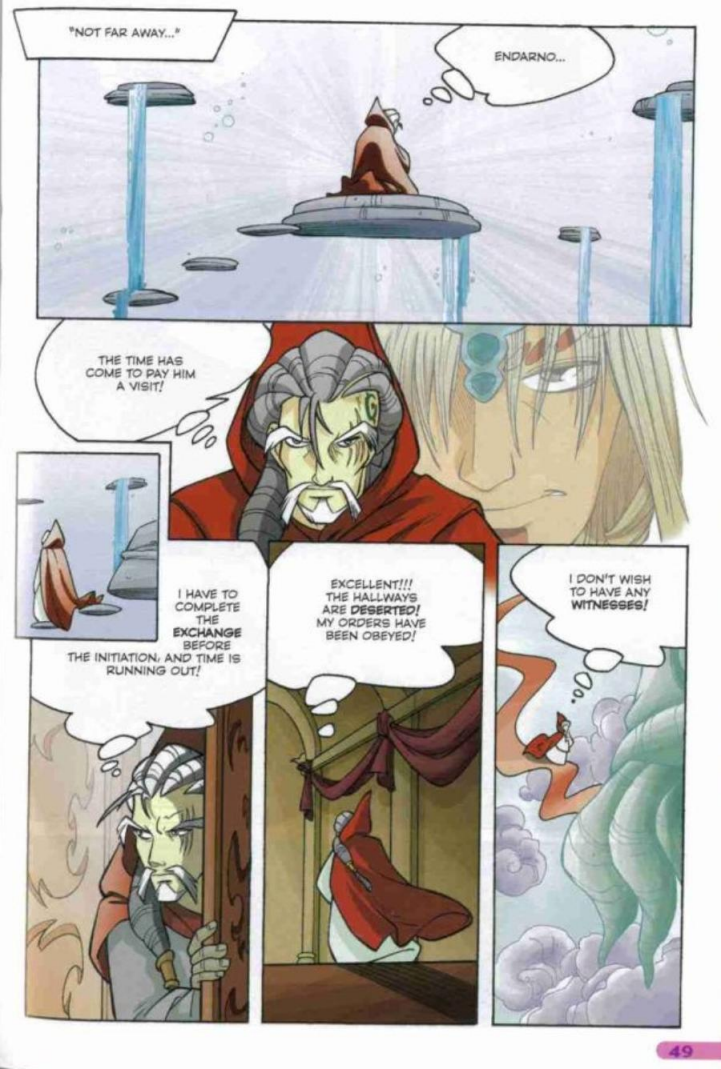
WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO DISCUSS THIS NOW. WE MUST ACT BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!
YEAH, BEFORE PHOBOS FINISHES HIS MIRACLE DIET!
???
THE MAGICAL FAST IS SERIOUS, IRMA. IT WILL PURIFY HIM BEFORE HIS INITIATION. IT REQUIRES CONCENTRATION AND ISOLATION.
HOW STRANGE! THE WALLS... THEY SEEM TO BE ALIVE!
JUST AS I'D HOPED! THE TOWER PERCEIVES THE POWER WITHIN YOU, WILL! YOU CAN OPEN THIS DOOR...
THE FIVE OF YOU!

FOR THE SALVATION OF KANDRAKAR! FOR ELYON!
WATER!
FIRE!
EARTH!
AIR!
HEART!

LIKE A DROP OF WATER RETURNING TO THE GREAT SEA....
WHOOSH
LIKE ROOTS BEING NOURISHED BY THE FERTILE SOIL...
LIKE A FIRE THAT WARMS YET DOESN'T BURN...
SHAZZ
LIKE LIFE-GIVING AIR THAT FILLS ALL SPACE...
...NATURE RECOGNIZES ITSELF. THE MIGHTY ENERGY OF KANDRAKAR SURGES THROUGH THE FIVE GUARDIANS!

WE DID IT!
COSMIC!
WELL I'LL BE!
TIME IS RUNNING OUT, AND THE ROAD IS STILL LONG! WE DON'T KNOW WHERE ELYON IS BEING IMPRISONED, AND WE HAVE TO FIND HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!
THE TOWER OF MISTS IS FAR GREATER THAN YOU BELIEVE. WE HAVE TO STICK **TOGETHER!** WE MUSTN'T GET LOST IN ITS ENDLESS HALLWAYS!
I'LL GO AHEAD WITH YOU. TARANEE AND IRMA WILL BRING UP THE REAR.
REARGUARD DUTY! I KNEW IT! THERE ARE **SIX** OF US, AND WHO DO THEY STICK WAY IN THE BACK? **ME**, OF COURSE!
MAYBE THERE ARE **TOO MANY** OF US! WE RISK BEING NOTICED! IT'S A GOOD THING ORUBE STAYED BACK **HOME**...

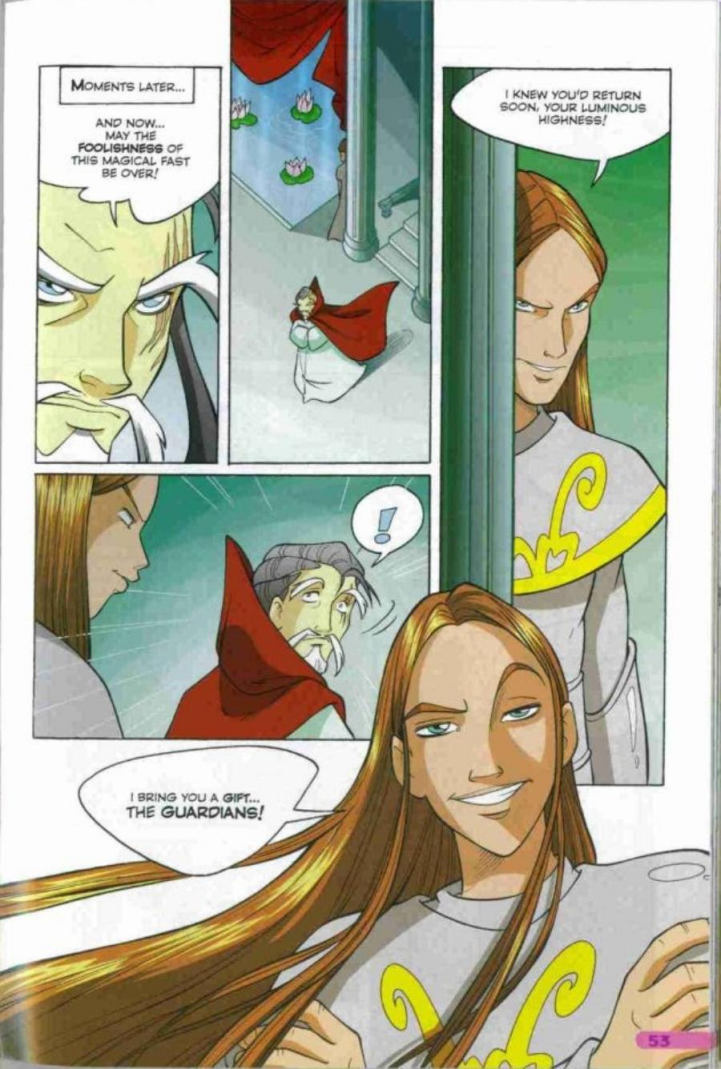
DID YOU SEE THE LOOK ON HER FACE?
IT WOULD BE BETTER IF YOU STAYED HERE, ORUBE.
BUT I...
BE PATIENT! FIRST WE HAVE TO FREE ELYON...
UM... HAVE YOU GUYS NOTICED? THERE DOESN'T SEEM TO BE ANYONE AROUND.
MY EFFORTS AND HUMILITY ARE BEING REWARDED, AT LAST... ALL I HAVE TO DO NOW IS INFORM PHOBOS.
OUR ENEMIES HAVE FALLEN INTO OUR TRAP AND MY TRIUMPH IS NEAR!


"NOT FAR AWAY..."
ENDARNO...
THE TIME HAS COME TO PAY HIM A VISIT!
I HAVE TO COMPLETE THE EXCHANGE BEFORE THE INITIATION, AND TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
EXCELLENT!!! THE HALLWAYS ARE DESERTED! MY ORDERS HAVE BEEN OBEYED!
I DON'T WISH TO HAVE ANY WITNESSES!

I THOUGHT I HEARD SOMETHING...
HEY, WILL! SOMEONE'S COMING THIS WAY!
BEHIND THESE COLUMNS! TARA: COME WITH US! IRMA, CORNY, AND HAY: GO TO THE OTHER SIDE!
DON'T MAKE A NOISE!
OHMANOHMANOHMAN...
SHUT UP!
GULP!

WHEW! HE'S GONE... HE DIDN'T SEE US! HE DIDN'T SEE US!
AH!
?
OHMANOHMAN OHMAN...
HE'S GONE! WE CAN COME OUT NOW!
WHAT'S PHOBOS DOING HERE?
HE MUST HAVE INTERRUPTED HIS FAST! FORTUNATELY, HE DOESN'T HAVE FULL POWERS YET, SO HE DIDN'T SPOT US!

"...BUT WE HAVE TO STAY AS FAR AWAY FROM HIM AS POSSIBLE."
TSK, TSK! LOOK AT YOU, ENDARNO! YOU SHOULD'VE TAKEN GREATER CARE OF YOUR APPEARANCE!
OR PERHAPS I SHOULD SAY MY APPEARANCE!
HA! HA! HA!
DON'T WORRY, I WON'T LET YOU DIE. AT LEAST, NOT RIGHT AWAY.
AN ACCIDENT IN THE TOWER OF MISTS WOULD RAISE TOO MUCH SUSPICION!
OOH....
VERY LITTLE OF YOU HAS REMAINED. BUT I WANT IT ALL THE SAME!
AND NOW, GIVE ME WHAT I REQUIRE!
FLASH
UGH!


MOMENTS LATER...
AND NOW... MAY THE FOOLISHNESS OF THIS MAGICAL FAST BE OVER!
I KNEW YOU'D RETURN SOON, YOUR LUMINOUS HIGHNESS!
!
I BRING YOU A GIFT... THE GUARDIANS!

YOUR WORDS ARE **BOLD**... DO YOU MEAN TO SAY YOU'VE DISCOVERED THEIR PLANS?
NO. MUCH MORE THAN THAT. WHAT I MEAN TO SAY IS...

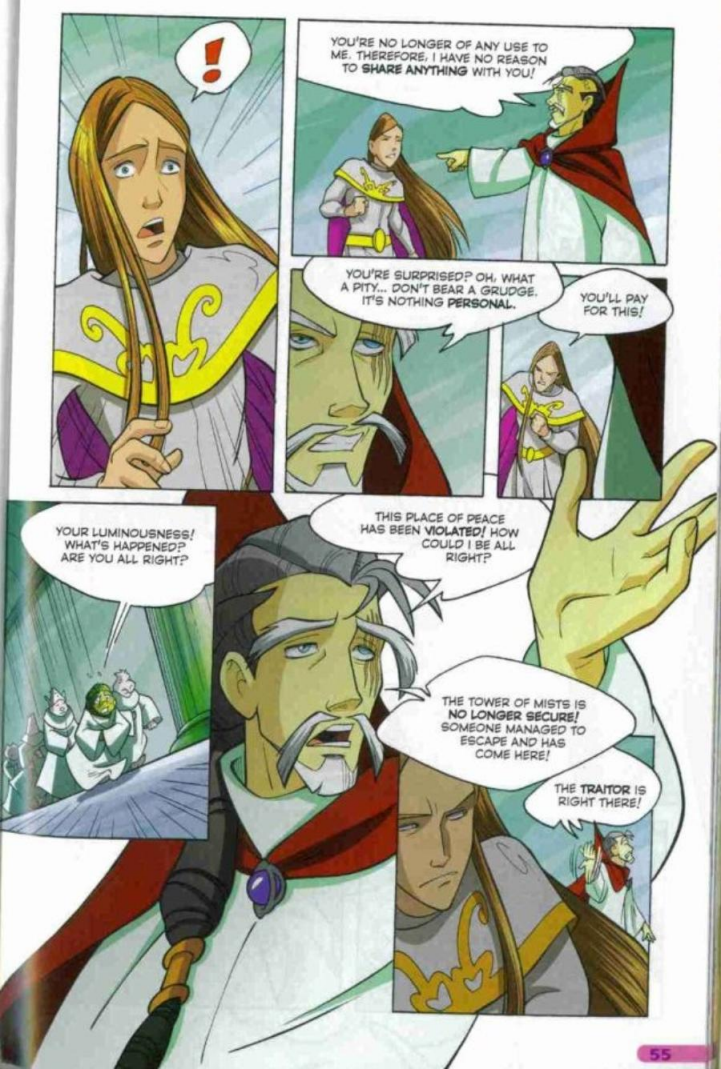
...THEY'RE HERE, IN THE **TOWER OF MISTS**! THEY'VE COME TO RETURN THE CROWN TO ELYON!

OF COURSE! MY LITTLE SISTER HAS LURED THEM INTO MY TRAP!
AT LAST!
AND THAT'S NOT ALL. THE RENEGADE, THE FORMER ORACLE, IS WITH THEM!

EXCELLENT WORK, CEDRIC. YOU'LL HAVE A **JUST REWARD** FOR YOUR SERVICES...
SHARING IN THE **GLORY** WITH YOU, SIRE, IS WHAT I ASK FOR.

CEDRIC, MY LOYAL SERVANT. I KNOW WHAT YOU DESERVE...

VAAL!


!
YOU'RE NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO ME. THEREFORE, I HAVE NO REASON TO SHARE ANYTHING WITH YOU!
YOU'RE SURPRISED? OH, WHAT A PITY... DON'T BEAR A GRUDGE. IT'S NOTHING PERSONAL.
YOU'LL PAY FOR THIS!
YOUR LUMINOUSNESS! WHAT'S HAPPENED? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
THIS PLACE OF PEACE HAS BEEN VIOLATED! HOW COULD I BE ALL RIGHT?
THE TOWER OF MISTS IS NO LONGER SECURE! SOMEONE MANAGED TO ESCAPE AND HAS COME HERE!
THE TRAITOR IS RIGHT THERE!

IT CAN'T BE!
SEARCH THE TOWER! CHECK EVERY DOOR AND EVERY HALLWAY!
AND WHEN YOU SPOT THE FIVE GUARDIANS AND THE EXILED ORACLE AS THEY TRY TO HELP THE REBEL ELYON ESCAPE, I'D SAY...
"DIDN'T I WARN YOU? YOU NEED FURTHER PROOF? THE GIRLS HAVE BETRAYED OUR TRUST AND MUST BE DONE AWAY WITH!"
QUICKLY! TAKE THE PRISONER BACK TO HIS CELL!
BUT... WHERE'S CEDRIC???
FIND HIM!

WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHERE IS EVERYONE DASHING OFF TO?
LET ME GO, TIBOR! IT'S A **TRAGEDY!** SOMETHING **TERRIBLE** HAS HAPPENED!
THE TOWER OF MISTS! **THE PRISONERS!** WE'VE BEEN BETRAYED!
I HAVE TO GO! I **HAVE TO GO!**
?!
***TRAGEDY! BETRAYAL!***
KANDRAKAR IS IN DANGER! I NEED ALL THE **HELP** I CAN GET!

I NEED YOUR STRENGTH, MY FRIEND...
I'M COMING, YAN LIN!

THE SEARCH FOR ELYON IN THE TOWER CONTINUES.
MAN... IT DIDN'T LOOK THIS **BIG** FROM THE OUTSIDE.
THE TOWER OF MISTS IS AN EXCEPTIONAL CONSTRUCTION. NO DETAILED MAP OF THIS PLACE EXISTS. ITS ROOMS AND HALLWAYS **CONTINUOUSLY CHANGE...**
IN OTHER WORDS, WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE WE ARE OR WHERE ELYON IS! **FANTASTIC!**
AND ONCE WE FIND HER CELL, WE'VE GOT TO **OPEN THE DOOR.** I'M AFRAID THAT'S NOT GOING TO BE EASY...

HAVE YOU ALREADY CHECKED THE TOP FLOORS?
NOT YET!
SOMEONE'S COMING!
QUICK! IN HERE!
MOVE IT, IRMA!
AW, MOVE IT... MOVE IT... I'M ALWAYS STUCK BRINGING UP THE REAR!
MAKE ROOM FOR ME, GUYS... ARGH!
SHEESH
HELP!!!

OHMYGOSH OHMYGOSH...
WE NEED YOU, HAY HEY! GO TO THE DOOR AND CHECK IF THE COAST IS CLEAR.
GOTCHA!
HMM...
WELL? I'M NOT HAVING FUN OUT HERE, YOU KNOW!
I DON'T SEE ANYBODY! WE CAN GO BACK IN!
WHEW...
NOW WHICH WAY DO WE GO?

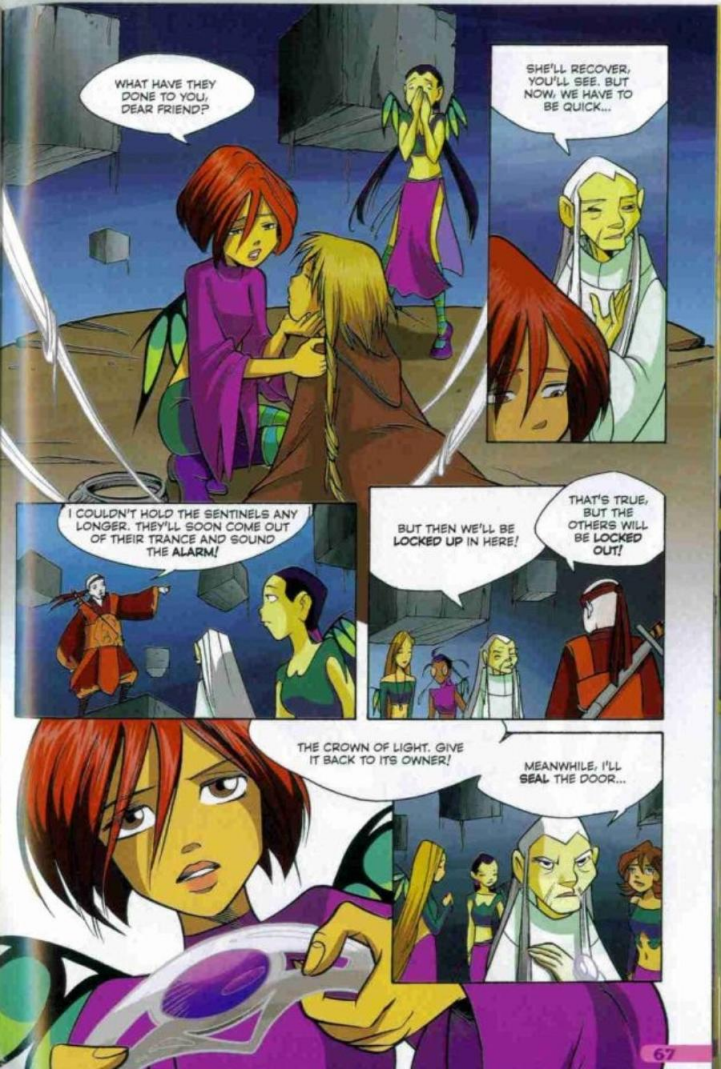
LET'S TRY THIS.
THIS ROOM... IT'S IDENTICAL TO THE ONE WE JUST LEFT!
I DON'T THINK IT'S THE SAME... THOUGH IT'S DIFFICULT TO TELL.
WE'RE LOST, AREN'T WE?
IF ONLY WE COULD TALK TO GRANDMA... SHE'D BE ABLE TO TAKE US TO ELYON!
I'VE GOT SOME BAD NEWS. I HEAR SOMEONE COMING THIS WAY!
YOU'RE RIGHT. I HEAR FOOTSTEPS, TOO.

HEY, ALKANOR! I HEARD SOMETHING...
SHHH!
ARE YOU CERTAIN? THIS IS THE SECOND TIME YOU'VE HAD ME RUNNING FOR NOTHING!
YES, I'M SURE! I'M TELLING YOU, I HEARD SOMETHING!
ALKANOR? IS THAT YOU DOWN THERE?
TELL ME YOU HAVE AN ESCAPE PLAN, WILL!
I'M THINKING... I'M THINKING...
WELL, THINK QUICK! DO YOU KNOW WHAT PHOBOS WILL DO TO US IF HE FINDS OUT WE'RE HERE?
WHAT'S THAT NOISE?
TLACK
SCREEEK

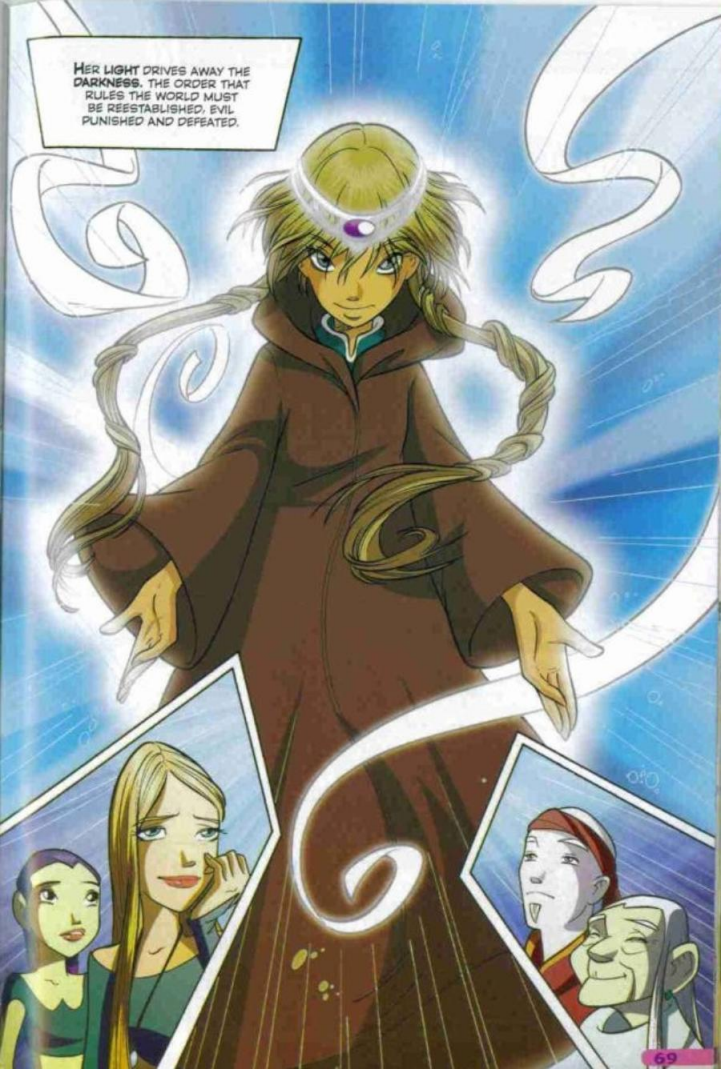
PUFF... IF YOU HAVE SUCH DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR, WHY DON'T YOU OFFER TO BE OUR NEXT ORACLE?
I WOULD BE PERFECT FOR THE ROLE, YOU KNOW. SEVERE YET JUST.
ORACLE ALKANOR! SUCH MISFORTUNE IS ALL WE NEED HERE IN KANDRAKAR!
ALWAYS BICKERING, YOU TWO! I WAS CERTAIN THERE WAS SOMEONE ELSE IN THIS ROOM!
I DON'T SEE ANYONE! THEY CERTAINLY CAN'T HAVE DISAPPEARED INTO THIN AIR!
YOU'RE RIGHT! LET'S KEEP LOOKING.
OLD TIBOR DID AN EXCELLENT JOB!
GRANDMA, WHAT A SURPRISE!

A FEW EXPLANATIONS LATER...
OF COURSE I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE KEEPING ELYON! I'M STILL THE GUARDIAN OF THE TOWER OF MISTS!
THE CROWN OF LIGHT, YAN LIN. I'M GIVING IT BACK TO YOU.
NO. YOU WILL BE THE ONE TO RETURN IT TO ELYON!
NOW WHAT WE HAVE TO DO IS AVOID THE SENTINELS GUARDING HER CELL. MY ARMBAND OPENS THE DOORS WITHIN THE TOWER, BUT IT CAN'T DO ANYTHING AGAINST ITS GUARDS.
I'LL TAKE CARE OF THEM...
LET'S GO!
JUST AS I'D FEARED...
THE TRAITOR!

NO, YOU'RE MISTAKEN. THERE'S NO ONE HERE.
BLINK
NO ONE...
THERE'S NO NEED TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS, BECAUSE **NOTHING** IS HAPPENING. FORGET WHAT YOU'RE SEEING!
NOTHING IS HAPPENING.
NO REINFORCE-MENTS.
BASILIADE HAS MANY THINGS TO TEACH ITS CHILDREN...
EXTRAORDINARY!
EVERYTHING IS FINE...
AT LAST, ELYON'S PRISON CELL OPENS UP...
ELYON!


WHAT HAVE THEY DONE TO YOU, DEAR FRIEND?
SHE'LL RECOVER, YOU'LL SEE. BUT NOW, WE HAVE TO BE QUICK...
I COULDN'T HOLD THE SENTINELS ANY LONGER. THEY'LL SOON COME OUT OF THEIR TRANCE AND SOUND THE ALARM!
BUT THEN WE'LL BE LOCKED UP IN HERE!
THAT'S TRUE, BUT THE OTHERS WILL BE LOCKED OUT!
THE CROWN OF LIGHT. GIVE IT BACK TO ITS OWNER!
MEANWHILE, I'LL SEAL THE DOOR...

OH...
THE ENERGY BEGINS TO FLOW ONCE AGAIN THROUGH THE BODY OF THE QUEEN OF MERIDIAN.
FRUSH
THERE IS NO POWER GREATER THAN HOPE AND VIRTUE.
NOT EVEN THE MIGHTIEST SPELL COULD CONTINUE TO KEEP HER IMPRISONED...


HER LIGHT DRIVES AWAY THE DARKNESS. THE ORDER THAT RULES THE WORLD MUST BE REESTABLISHED. EVIL PUNISHED AND DEFEATED.

WRONGS WILL BE RIGHTED.
IMPOSTERS UNMASKED...
...AND THE WISE WILL CONTEMPLATE THE DEPTHS OF THEIR LIMITATIONS...
SO THAT EVERYTHING RETURNS TO BEING AS IT IS WRITTEN...
...NOW AND FOREVER.
End of Episode.